

MINE DISASTER

HORRORS OF FRATERVILLE MINE EXPLOSION

ALL BODIES NOT RECOVERED

One Hundred and Forty-One Taken from the Mine So Far—The Number of Deaths Estimated at Two Hundred and Twenty-Six—Some Lived Long Enough in the Mine to Write Letters—The Work of Searching for the Bodies Continues.

Knoxville, Tenn., May 21.—The latest estimates as to the loss of life in the mine disaster at Coal Creek is 226, including contract miners, day laborers and boy helpers.

Up to noon today 141 bodies had been removed from the mine. No one has been recovered alive. Thirteen bodies were found in an entry.

Five of them had written letters before life became extinct. One of these letters gave the time of day. It was written at 2:30 o'clock Monday afternoon, thus indicating that these and perhaps others entombed men lived many hours after the terrible explosion, which occurred Monday morning at 7:30 o'clock. The letter gave a general suggestion of the suffering that was undergone, indicating that the men were gradually being strangled to death by the foul gaseous air that was filling the mine. One piteously read: "My God, for another breath."

The letters, in the main, were addressed to families as to what disposition should be made of the writers' bodies, and business affairs and instructing as to raising the families. One of the victims, an orphan, addressed his letter: "To everybody" and pleaded that they change their way of living.

President J. W. Howe, of the United Mine Workers, of America for district No. 19, went into the mines today to make an inspection and to assist in the rescue work.

President John Mitchell, of the Mine Workers of America, has sent \$100 for the relief fund and Mr. Howe today announced that the Mine Workers of America would at once expend \$1,000 for the needy families of the members who died in the mine and more will be available if needed.

State Mine Inspector Shiflett will not make his inspection until the mine is cleared of some of the debris.

Mrs. George Atkins, wife of the mine foreman who was killed in the disaster, has completely lost her mind.

The rescuing parties that went in Monday are completely exhausted and new men were sent into the mines today. Physicians positively forbade any of the first rescuers returning. They have been in contact with the gaseous air for so long that they have become weakened and it is feared they could not survive the arduous work. Many hardy miners from other sections are here and from these the rescuing parties are made up today.

Money is badly needed and the outside world is urged to send in contributions to R. M. Lindsay, chairman of the relief committee, Coal Creek, Tennessee.